

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PERMREPS LUNCH FEBRUARY 25

SUMMARY: AT LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 24, PERMREPS DISCUSSED MARCH 6 NAC CONSULTATION ON LAW OF THE SEA, SYG LUNS' VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF NUNN AMENDMENT, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY IN PORTUGAL, DATE OF THE SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL, AND PROLIFERATION OF NATO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS END SUMMARY.

1. CONSULTATION OF LAW OF THE SEA (LOS). THEODOROPOULOS (BREECE) RAISED SUBJECT OF FORMAT FOR MARCH 6 NAC ON LOS, HOPING IT WOULD BE MORE TIGHTLY STRUCTURED THAN RECENT CSCE NAC. MENZIES(CANADA) SAID REPRESENTATIVE FROM OTTAWA, AMBASSADOR BEESLEY, WAS AN AUTHORITY ON LOS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK AT SOME LENGTH BOTH IN THE LOS NAC AND AGAIN AT THE SACLANT SYMPOSIUM IN ANNAPOLIS NEXT JUNE. BUSCH (NORWAY) SAID HIS REPRESENTATIVE IS A FULL MEMBER OF THE CABINET IN OSLO AND HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THIS GENTLEMAN WOULD BE GUIDED OR CONFIDENTIAL

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RESTRAINED BY PERMREPS' SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO STRUCTURE THE CONSULTATION. ERALP SAID THAT ANKARA REGARDS THE UPCOMING NAC DISCUSSION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AMONG THE ALLIES AND NOT AS AN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON ANYTHING. DE ROSE

(FRANCE) AND HARTOGH(NETHERLANDS) SUGGESTED THAT THEVARIOUS ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT PLACE EMPHASIS ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND ON THOSE ISSUES WHICH AFFECT ALLIANCE INTERESTS. MCAULIFFE SAID THE U.S. BELIEVED THAT EACH ALLY SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ITS MIND AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SURPRISES SPRUNG AT THE LAST MINUTE WHEN THE LOS CONFERENCE ACTUALLY CONVENES IN GENEVA IN MID-MARCH. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION BY ERALP THAT NAC LOS CONSULTATION WOULD CONTINUE ENTIRE DAY WITH BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS AND EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

2. LUNS' VISIT TO WHITE HOUSE. MCAULIFFE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED FEBRUARY 24 WHITE HOUSE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT COVERING DR. LUNS' VISIT WITH PRESIDENT FORD. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS APPROBATION OF THE

PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO INVITE THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE PERMREPS TO MEET WITH HIM AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE SPRING. PERMREPS HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF DATES FOR THIS VISIT WHEN LUNS AND AMBASSADOR BRUCE RETURN FROM WASHINGTON.

3. NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF NUNN AMENDMENT. MENZIES INQUIRED WHETHER ALL NPG ALLIES HAD AGREED TO TEXT OF THE LETTER WHICH SYG LUNS WILL BE SENDING TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. ASYG PANSA SAID HE WUOULD CIRCULATE A CLEAN TEXT (SEE USNATO 1024) LATER IN THE DAY AND THAT HE BELIEVED ALL DELEGATIONS HAD NOW APPROVED IT. PANSA SAID WHEN LUNS RETURNS TO BRUSSELS TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK HE WILL LIKELY SIGN THE LETTER AND TRANSMIT IT TO DR. SCHLESINGER. PECK(UK) PROFESSED THAT HE BAFFLED BY DUTCH PERMREP (HARTOGH'S) ACCEPTING THE MODIFIED TEXT WHICH IS ALMOST TOTALLY IRRECONCILABLE WITH THE POSITION WHICH THE DUTCH AMBASADOR HAD ESPOUSED IN THE FEBRUARY 20 NPG SESSION (SEEUSNATO 962). UNDER PERSISTENT QUESTINGOING FROM HIS COLLEAGUES, HARTOGH SAID THE HAGUE CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE MBFR CONTEXT. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS PROBABLY SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT THINKING WITHIN THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT. THE LUNS-SCHLESINGER LETTER AS NOW DRAFTED CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAINLY REPRESENTS THE POSITION EXPRESSED BY FONMIN VAN DER STOEL DURING THE DECEMBER 1974 NAC MINISTERIAL. HOWEVER, HARTOGH WAS ALSO AWARE THAT A RATHER DIFFERENT POSITION HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY ANOTHER DUTCH MINISTER IN BRUSSELS DURING THE SAME MONTH.

4. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY IN PORTUGAL. DE FREITAS CRUZ (PORTUGAL) CALLED ATTENTION TO THE "PLAN OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY" RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY HIS AUTHORITIIES IN LISBON. HEEXPLAINED THAT HE NOW HAS THE FULL TEXT OF THAT PLAN, THAT HE HAS READ IT CAREFULLY AND THOUGHTFULLY, AND THAT HE HAS FOUND IT AN EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE AND SOUND CONCEPT. AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES ENGLISH AND FRENCH COPIES OF THE TEST FROM LISBON, HE PLANS TO

DISTRIBUTE THEM TO HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL.

5. DATE OF SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL . PECK ANNOUNCED THAT HMG COULD NOW AGREE TO MAY 29-30 FOR THE NAC MINISTERIAL IN BRUSSELS. SVART SAID HE HOPED TO GET A DECISION FROM THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

6. PROLIFERATION OF NATO COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS. MCAULIFFE RECALLED THE DECISION TAKEN BY DEFENSE MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1974 AT THE INITIATIVE OF FRG MINISTER LEBER. THAT DECISION CALLED UPON THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO OVERSEE AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES WITHIN THE DPC STRUCTURE. MCAULIFFE WENT ON TO SAY THAT USNATO HAD JUST CONDUCTED AN INFORMAL SURVEY OF THE SUBJECT AND DISCOVERED THAT THE NAC AND DPC TOGETHER HAVE MORE THAN 370 COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, AND AD HOC GROUPS REPORTING TO THEM. DURING THE LAST 18 MONTHS, 68 ADDITIONAL BODIES HAVE BEEN ADDED AND ONLY 27 HAVE BEEN DISBANDED. WHEN MISSION SCRUTINIZED 125 OF THE 370 PLUS GROUPS MORE CLOSELY IT FOUND EIGHT THAT APPEARED TO BE INACTIVE AND NINE OTHERS THAT THE US EXPERTS MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED RATED AS NEXT TO WORTHLESS. HE URGED THE ACTING SYG TO PUT THIS SUBJECT ON AN EARLY DPC AGENDA AS REQUIRED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTERS' DECISION. HE SAID THAT NATO AND THE ALLIES NEED TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THESE GROUPS HAD FINISHED THEIR WORK. THEN THEY SHOULD BE DISBANDED AND DELETED FROM THE LIST. HE SAID THAT IN THE U.S. VIEW THIS APPLIED TO BODIES THAT WERE SUBORDINATE BOTH TO THE DPC AND THO THE NAC.

7. PANSA RESPONDED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WAS REALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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POWERLESS TO DISBAND THESE SUBORDINATE BODIES ALTHOUGH THEY TAXED THE RESOURCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF ENORMOUSLY. HE EXPLAINED THAT ON ANUMBER OF RECENT OCCASIONS THERE WERE SO MANY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE NATO BUILDING AT EVERE WITH THE RESULT THAT THE GROUPS HAD TO GATHER AT OTHER LOCATIONS AT GREATLY ADDED EXPENSE. MENZIES RETORTED THAT THE LIMITATIONS ON NATIONAL BUDGETS REINFORCES THE NEED TO DO AWAY WITH GROUPS THAT HAVE FULFILLED THEIR TASKS OR HAVE BECOME SUPERANNUATED. KRAPF SUPPORTED MCAULIFFE'S REQUEST FOR A DPC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE. PANSA SAID THAT MANY OF THE SMALLER ALLIES DERIVED GREAT BENEFIT FROM EXCHANGES ON TECHNICAL SUBJECTS IN THE SUBGROUPS. HE SAID THAT ONLY ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND AMBASSADORS COULD CONTROL OR CURTAIL THEGROWTH OF THESE BODIES; BUT HE AGREED TO SCHEDULE DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER. MCAULIFFE

CONFIDENTIAL

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